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The standard process for making composite parts included laying up a tool-side skin, usually several plies of resin-impregnated fiberglass or graphite cloth, on the surface of a tool known as a "bond assembly jig" or BAJ. If the part was to have a honeycomb core, the honeycomb material was cut and fitted onto the tool-side and the assembly is covered with a vacuum bag from which the air was withdrawn with a vacuum source. The bagged assembly was inserted into an autoclave and reconnected to the vacuum source while it was heated to cure the resin in the tool-side skin plies and bond the honeycomb to the skin. The bagged assembly was then removed from the autoclave and unbagged.

Change the paragraph beginning at Page 3, line 17 to Page 4, line 5:

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This invention eliminated the use of two separate very costly tools, and it eliminated much of the hand manipulation of the part previously required during removal from and positioning onto the two tools. The particular difficulty of registering large flexible composite parts onto the tool on which it was being repositioned was eliminated because the part stayed on the same tool throughout its fabrication. Likewise, a partially fabricated part having only one skin was not pulled out of shape by the stresses in the skin induced during cure, because the part remains bonded to the tool face in its original laid-up position. Subsequent machining or drilling operations on the part are performed precisely at the designated position since the part is positioned on the tool exactly where it belongs. The usual quality control procedures such as statistical process control and the like are thus now possible in configuration quality control for parts made by this process. Thus, in an environment wherein dimensional control and certainty of manufacturing parts within statistically determined tolerances is critical to the ability to manufacture products at rates that are important to the commercial success of the business. The "Dual Purpose Lay-Up Tool" invention disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,746,553 has made a significant contribution to industrial efficiency and quality of manufacture of large composite parts.

Please substitute new page 10 for Patent Office's file copy of page 10 in which the margin was cut off resulting in incomplete words down the side of the page. The substitute page is a direct photocopy of page 10 as filed.

Please amend claims 17, 18 and 28 as follows: